

## Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MASS, NL

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO LABOR PARTY COUNCIL ANTI-  
STARFIGHTER DECISION (SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21)

1. ALGEMEEN DAGBLAD (INDEPENDENT CONSERVATIVE):  
"THE LABOR PARTY DOESN'T WANT A U.S. PLANE  
AS SUCCESSOR TO 'STARFIGHTER'. A LARGE MAJORITY OF THE  
COUNCIL ALSO EXPRESSED THE DESIRE THAT THE NEW PLANES  
SHOULD NOT HAVE A NUCLEAR CAPABILITY". THE PAER GOES ON  
TO NOTE COMMENTS BY SECOND CHAMBER MEMBERS VAN ELSSEN (KVP):  
"..... DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT. EVERY  
PLANE CAN BE MADE SUITABLE FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS....."  
AND BY PLOEG (VVD): "THE LABOR PARTY COUNCIL TOOK A  
STRONG ANTI-AMERICAN STAND..."

2. TELEGRAAF (INDEPENDENT CONSERVATIVE)  
EDITORIAL. "ANTI-AMERICA"  
".....BECAUSE THE LABOR PARTY COUNCIL IS OP-  
POSED TO A PLANE WITH NUCLEAR CAPABILITY, THE FRENCH  
AND SWEDISH PLANES WOULD ALSO BE UNSUITABLE.  
"WHETHER ANY OF THE REMAINING PLANES WOULD BE SUITABLE  
IN THE EVENT OF OUR FREE DEMOCRACY HAVING TO BE DEFENDED  
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IS A MATTER WHICH THE COUNCIL DIDN'T WORRY ABOUT, BLINDED

AS IT IS BY ANTI-AMERICAN FEELINGS.

"IF THE LABOR PARTY MEMBERS IN THE SECOND CHAMBER DO INDEED TRY TO PASS THIS DECISION IN THE SECOND CHAMBER, THE OTHER PARTIES WILL BE SENSIBLE ENOUGH TO REJECT IT, AND VREDELING WILL THEN ANYWAY BE ABLE TO DECIDE HIMSELF ABOUT THE 'STARFIGHTER' REPLACEMENT. STILL, THAT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND PARTY COUNCIL OF THE BIGGEST PARTY WITH GOVERNING RESPONSIBILITY IS PREPARED TO RISK THE SAFETY OF OUR COUNTRY BY ITS RASH ANTI-AMERICANISM.

"THE LABOR PARTY COULD BETTER HAVE LOOKED AT YUGOSLAVIA INSTEAD OF AT THE U.S. THERE PEOPLE OBVIOUSLY HAVE QUITE DIFFERENT IDEAS ABOUT THE RUSSIAN THREAT BUT AREN'T ABLE TO DO MUCH ABOUT IT."

3. ALSO TELEGRAAF

".....THE PRONOUNCEMENT THAT OUR COUNTRY MAY NOT BUY U.S. PLANES WAS MADE BY THE LABOR PARTY 'BECAUSE THE U.S. GAVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TOWARDS THE BRINGING ABOUT OF THE COLLAPSE OF A DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT IN CHILE'."

4. TROUW (CALVINIST)

".... THE COUNCIL AGREED THAT THE REPLACEMENT SHOULD BE OF A TYPE WHICH CAN'T PERFORM NUCLEAR TASKS. ACCORDING TO LABOR PARTY MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT PRESENT THIS DECISION WAS RATHER ABSURD, BECAUSE ANY AND EVERY PLANE CAN CARRY OUT NUCLEAR TASKS. ONE REACTION: 'IT'S RATHER REASSURING THAT THEY DON'T DEMAND THAT HOLLAND BUY ONLY GLIDERS\*' THE COUNCIL ALSO DECIDED THAT THE NEW FIGHTERS MAY NOT COME FROM THE U.S. BECAUSE OF THE U.S.' ILLEGAL PRACTICES DURING THE COLLAPSE OF THE ALLENDE REGIME IN CHILE. THIS WEEK IN THE SECOND CHAMBER THE 'STARFIGHTER' REPLACEMENT WILL BE AN IMPORTANT POINT IN THE DEFENSE DEBATE. THE LABOR PARTY WILL INSIST THAT HOLLAND TAKE A MUCH SIMPLER AND CHEAPER TYPE THAN THE PRESENT CANDIDATES, IF HOLLAND DOESN'T SUCCEED IN AGREEING WITH BELGIUM, NORWAY AND DENMARK ABOUT CHOOSING THE SAME REPLACEMENT. THE PARTY WILL TRY NOT TO TAKE TOO TOUGH A STAND AS CONSULTATION BE-

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TWEEN THE FOUR COUNTRIES IS STILL TAKING PLACE, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN HOLLAND WHICH HAS BEEN INSISTING ON CO-OPERATION BETWEEN NATO PARTNERS IN THE PURCHASE OF IMPORTANT WEAPONS, ETC."

5. VOLKSKRANT (CATHOLIC LABOR, LEFTIST)

"..... THE DECLARATION OF LAST SATURDAY ALSO CONTAINED THIS SENTENCE" "THE COUNCIL CONSIDERS THAT IT

SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHETHER CHEAPER PLANES THAN THE FOUR TYPES NOW BEING CONSIDERED SHOULDN'T BE PURCHASED'....

A MOTION WAS PASSED BY THE COUNCIL IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT IS EMPHATICALLY REQUESTED NOT TO REPLACE THE 'STAR-FIGHTER' WITH U.S. PLANES BECAUSE 'U.S. FUNDS ARE USED TO HELP BRING ABOUT THE COLLAPSE OF DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENTS'. THIS WAS AN OBVIOUS ALLUSION TO THE PART THE U.S. PLAYED IN THE RECENT EVENTS IN CHILE".

EXTRACT FROM EDITORIAL COMMENT THIS PAPER:

"..... ALSO FROM SEVERAL OTHER MOTIONS, WHICH WERE PASSED, REGARDING THE REPLACEMENT OF THE 'STARFIGHTER' (NO NUCLEAR TASKS, NO U.S. TYPE), IT WAS NOTICEABLE THAT WITHIN THE PARTY THERE EXISTS AN EXTREMELY CRITICAL ATTITUDE IN REGARD TO THE SUGGESTED PROGRAM PUT FORWARD IN THE DEFENSE NOTE. ESPECIALLY THE REJECTION OF NUCLEAR ARMAMENT IS UNDERSTANDABLE. THIS IS A QUESTION WHICH IS BEING INCREASINGLY REGARDED IN VARIOUS CIRCLES AS A MATTER OF CONSCIENCE, BUT ONE TO WHICH NO SUITABLE ANSWER CAN BE FOUND AS LONG AS SUCH A REJECTION WOULD REMAIN UNILATERAL. THE VERY CLEAR RESERVATIONS REGARDING THE GREAT ATLANTIC ALLY, THE U.S., ARE UNDERSTANDABLE, THIS BECAUSE JUST RECENTLY IT HAS AGAIN BECOME OBVIOUS HOW STRONGLY THE U.S. INTRIGUED AGAINST ALLENDE'S CHILE..."

6. ALSO ALGEMMEN DAGBLAD

EDITORIAL COMMENT:

".....THIS WEEKEND THE MOST DANGEROUS THREAT TO THE DEN UYL CABINET CAME FROM THE SIDE OF THE LABOR PARTY ITSELF. THE PARTY COUNCIL, THE LABOR PARTY'S TOP ADVISORY BODY, SHOWED A STRONG AVERSION TOWARD VARIOUS BASIC POINTS IN THE SUGGESTED DEFENSE PROGRAM AND SHOWED ALSO A FRIGHTENING ANTI-AMERICANISM...

".....IT'S CLEAR THAT THE LABOR PARTY OUTSIDE

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THE CABINET TAKES A POSITION MUCH NEARER TO THAT OF THE PPR (PROGRESSIVES) THAN THAT HELD BY THE DENOMINATIONAL PARTIES. THIS FACT IS GOING TO LEAD TO TENSION IN THE GOVERNMENT..."

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